

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06694 141318Z
ACTION AF-10

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AMCONSUL IBADAN
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ALSO FOR AID/SER/CFS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EAID, SOCI, BENC, BEXP, EAIR, NI, US

SUBJECT: NEW CAPITAL: USGS COMPLETES FIELD WORK

1. U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) PARTY WHICH, WITH NIGERIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, HAS BEEN MAPPING FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) UNDER CONTRACT TO FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) COMPLETED FIELD WORK EARLY JUNE. LAST TEAM MEMBERS DEPARTED JUNE 10 FOR U.S. AFTER PRESENTING PRELIMINARY SAMPLES FIVE BASIC MAPS TO CDA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EBONG.

2. MAPS AND ANALYSES WILL BE COMPLETED IN U.S. NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. MEANWHILE, USGS, CDA AND MASTER PLANNERS WILL CONSULT TO DETERMINE FUTURE USGS ROLE IN PROJECT. MASTER PLANNING CONTRACT SIGNING HOPEFULLY WILL TAKE PLACE LATE JUNE.

3. MAPS PRODUCED BY USGS ARE:

A. RECONNAISSANCE GEOLOGIC -- ROCK TYPES AND STRUCTURE,
POSSIBLE MINERAL DEPOSITS;
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B. RECONNAISSANCE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIC -- DESIRABLE AND UNDESIRABLE AREAS FOR CONSTRUCTION, DRAINAGE, SOURCES CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ETC;

C. RECONNAISSANCE SURFICIAL GEOLGIC -- RELIEF FEATURES;

D. GEOCHEMICAL SAMPLE LOCALITY -- LOCATIONS OF SOIL AND ROCK SAMPLES TO BE ANALYZED IN U.S.;

E. LENDSAT LAND USE -- COMPUTER-ENHANCED LANDSAT IMAGERY

SHOWING PRESENT VEGETATION AND OTHER LAND USE PATTERNS.

4. ACCOMPANYING SEVEN-PAGE REPORT FROM USGS TO CDA SUGGESTS THAT BEST SITE FOR THE CAPITAL CITY WOULD BE REGION NORTH, EAST AND WEST OF KWALI, 7 00 E/8 53 N. AREA NORTH OF USMAN RIVERSAND WEST OF GWAGWALADA, 7 06 E/8 57 N, CALLED SUITABLE FOR AIRSTRIP FOR USE BY PLANNERS, OFFICIALS, ETC., WITH EXPANSION INTO CAPITAL'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IF INITIAL EXPERIENCE FAVORABLE.

5. USGS RECOMMENDED SYSTEMATIC GEOLOGIC MAPPING AND DRILLING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN SOUTHERN PORTION FCT TO LOCATE MAJOR SOURCES CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. CALLED FOR DETAILED ENGINEERING GEOLGIC STUDIES OF LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION SITES AND NOTED THAT URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN FCT WITHOUT REGARD FOR EXISTING VEGETATION COVER COULDSLEAD TO BADLANDS-TYPE EROSION. SUGGESTED THAT USE OF SATELLITE IMAGERY COULD HELP IN PLANNING.

6. NO REPEAT NO LOCAL PUBLICITY ATTENDED MAP PRESENTATION. VARIOUS ACADEMICS AND ASPIRING POLITICIANS HAVE PERIODICALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SURVEYING/MAPPING ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA BY FOREIGNERS.

7. COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE: USGS REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM AS OF INTEREST TO AMERICAN FIRMS INTERESTED IN COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THIS PROJECT. REGARDING AIRPORT, CDA OFFICIALS SAID INITIAL VERSION WILL BE DESIGNED TAKE JETS.

8. USGS PARTY DESERVES HIGHEST RATINGS FOR
PERSEVERANCE,
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DIPLOMACY AND TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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